

# NEWS RELEASE

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## Metro Area Unemployment Rates Continue Rising *Job Growth Remains Slow*

### Not Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates

Metropolitan Area	December 2015	December 2014	Over-the-Year Change
Bloomington	5.4%	4.8%	0.6
Carbondale-Marion	6.5%	6.0%	0.5
Champaign-Urbana	5.4%	5.0%	0.4
Chicago-Naperville-Arlington Heights	5.6%	5.6%	0.0
Danville	7.4%	7.0%	0.4
Davenport-Moline-Rock Island, IA-IL	5.9%	5.9%	0.0
Decatur	7.4%	7.0%	0.4
Elgin	6.2%	6.0%	0.2
Kankakee	7.0%	6.8%	0.2
Lake-Kenosha, IL-WI	5.8%	5.7%	0.1
Peoria	7.0%	6.2%	0.8
Rockford	7.2%	6.9%	0.3
Springfield	5.4%	5.3%	0.1
St. Louis (IL-Section)	6.1%	6.1%	0.0
Illinois Statewide	5.9%	5.8%	0.1

\* Data subject to revision.

**CHICAGO** –Illinois jobs decreased in six metropolitan areas and unemployment rates increased in eleven regions, according to data released today by the Illinois Department of Employment Security (IDES) and the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). The unemployment rate remained the same in three areas and one metro area saw no change in non farm jobs. The not seasonally adjusted data compares over-the-year change from December 2015 with December 2014.

Illinois businesses lost jobs in areas including the Quad Cities (-2.4 percent, -4,500), Decatur (-1.8 percent, -900), Carbondale-Marion (-1.3 percent, -700), and Lake-Kenosha (-1.3 percent, -5,100). Illinois businesses added jobs in seven metros including Elgin (+1.6 percent, +4,100), Champaign-Urbana (+0.8 percent, +900), Chicago-Naperville-Arlington Heights Metro Division (+0.7 percent or +26,800), and Danville (+0.7 percent, +200). Two industries recorded job growth: Education and Health Services (nine sectors) and Leisure and Hospitality (eight sectors).

“Illinois took another hit on jobs and many metro areas continue to absorb these hits,” said IDES Director Jeff Mays. “Since the

previous jobs peak in 2007, only three out of fourteen metro areas have regained the jobs lost during the recession.”

The not seasonally adjusted Illinois rate was 5.9 percent in December 2015 and stood at 12.2 percent at its peak in this economic cycle in January 2010. Nationally, the not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 4.8 percent in December and 10.6 percent in January 2010 at its peak. The unemployment rate identifies those who are out of work and looking for work, and is not tied to collecting unemployment insurance benefits.

### Total Nonfarm Jobs (Not Seasonally Adjusted) – December 2015

Metropolitan Area	December 2015*	December 2014**	Over-the-Year Change
Bloomington MSA	95,100	95,000	100
Carbondale-Marion MSA	54,500	55,200	-700
Champaign-Urbana MSA	110,600	109,700	900
Chicago-Naperville-Arlington Heights Metro Division	3,658,100	3,631,300	26,800
Danville MSA	29,700	29,500	200
Davenport-Moline-Rock Island MSA	179,500	184,000	-4,500
Decatur MSA	50,300	51,200	-900
Elgin Metro Division	255,700	251,600	4,100
Kankakee MSA	45,700	45,700	0
Lake-County-Kenosha County Metro Division	396,400	401,500	-5,100
Peoria MSA	178,700	178,400	300
Rockford MSA	152,000	152,300	-300
Springfield MSA	112,900	112,400	500
Illinois Section of St. Louis MSA	230,500	231,400	-900
Illinois Statewide	5,949,700	5,951,300	-1,600

\*Preliminary \*\*Revised

(continued)

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**Not Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates  
(percent) for Local Counties and Areas**

	<b>Dec. 2015</b>	<b>Dec. 2014</b>	<b>Over-the- year Change</b>
<b>IL Section of St. Louis</b>	6.1%	6.1%	0
Bond	5.5%	5.4%	+0.1
Calhoun	6.8%	7.0%	-0.2
Clinton	4.6%	4.4%	+0.2
Jersey	6.8%	6.4%	+0.4
Macoupin	6.5%	6.4%	+0.1
Madison	6.1%	6.0%	+0.1
Monroe	4.4%	4.6%	-0.2
St. Clair	6.5%	6.6%	-0.1
<b>Cities:</b>			
Alton	8.4%	8.5%	-0.1
Belleville	6.3%	6.5%	-0.2
Collinsville	5.9%	6.1%	-0.2
East St. Louis	11.3%	11.5%	-0.2
Granite City	7.7%	7.1%	+0.6
O'Fallon	5.5%	5.5%	0
<b>Counties:</b>			
Greene	6.3%	6.2%	+0.1
Randolph	5.7%	5.6%	+0.1
Washington	4.0%	3.8%	+0.2
<b>Other Areas:</b>			
LWA 21	6.7%	6.3%	+0.4
LWA 22	6.1%	6.0%	+0.1
LWA 24	5.9%	6.0%	+0.1
Southwestern Economic Development Region	6.0%	6.0%	0

**Note:**

- Monthly 2014 unemployment rates and total non-farm jobs for Illinois metro areas were revised in February 2015, as required by the U.S. Dept. of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). Comments and tables distributed for prior metro area news releases should be discarded as any records or historical analysis previously cited may no longer be valid.
- LWA— Local Workforce Area 21 is composed of Calhoun, Greene, Jersey, Macoupin, Montgomery, Morgan, Scott and Shelby Counties.  
LWA— Local Workforce Area 22 is composed of Bond and Madison Counties.  
LWA— Local Workforce Area 24 is composed of Clinton, Monroe, Randolph, St. Clair and Washington Counties.

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## Metro East Highlights

### Help Wanted

Area employers advertised for 5,300 openings in December and approximately 84 percent sought full-time employment, according to Help Wanted OnLine data compiled by the Conference Board. It is a global, independent business membership and research association. Employers actually need more workers than the help wanted ad indicates because some industries, such as construction, typically do not advertise job openings.

The December 2015 unemployment rate for the Illinois Section of the St. Louis Metropolitan Statistical Area was 6.1 percent, unchanged from December 2014. The data is not seasonally adjusted.

The number of employed individuals increased by 8,532 to 326,501 in December 2015 from 317,969 in December 2014. The labor force increased by 9,252 to 347,788 in December 2015 from 338,536 in December 2014. In December 2015, there were 21,287 unemployed people in the labor force. This is an increase of 720, compared to the December 2014 total unemployed, 20,567.

Over the year, nonfarm payrolls decreased by (-900). Employment increased in Mining and Construction (+200), Wholesale Trade (+100), Retail Trade (+100), Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities (+100), and Educational and Health Services (+100).

Government (-600) showed the greatest number of job losses over the year. Other declines included Financial Activities (-200), Professional and Business Services (-200), Manufacturing (-200), Information (-100), Leisure and Hospitality Services (-100), and Other Services (-100).